

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): The process according to claim 26, in which the amount of additive ranges from 0.05 to 2%.

Claims 12-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The process according to claim 29, wherein said active ingredient is a β -agonist selected from the group consisting of salbutamol, formoterol, salmeterol, terbutaline and salts thereof.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The process according to claim 29, wherein said active ingredient is a steroid selected from beclomethasone dipropionate, flunisolide, budesonide and the epimers thereof.

Claims 16-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, wherein said carrier particles have a starting diameter between 90 to 150 μm and said fine fraction of said carrier particles has a mean aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 μm .

Claim 19 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, wherein the mixer is selected from those with a stationary or rotating body equipped with a rotatory element.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, wherein the mixer is a sigma blade mixer and the rate of mixing is comprised between 100 and 300 r.p.m.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, wherein the mixing time of said carrier particles ranges from 5 to 360 minutes.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, wherein the mixing time is 30 minutes.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, wherein said carrier particles consist of one or more saccharides.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, wherein said carrier particles consist of α -lactose monohydrate.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, which yields a fraction of said carrier particles whose variation of the starting mean aerodynamic diameter is less than 20%.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, wherein after said treatment a suitable amount of an additive selected from the group consisting of lubricants, anti-adherent agents and glidants is added to the carrier.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 26, wherein said additive comprises a lubricant and is magnesium stearate, stearic acid, sodium stearyl fumarate or sodium benzoate.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A process according to Claim ~~17~~ 37, wherein after said treatment one or more active ingredients, whose particles have a mean diameter of less than 5 μm , are added to the carrier.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A process according to Claim 28, wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of steroids, β_2 agonists, and anticholinergics, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 11, wherein said additive comprises a lubricant and is magnesium stearate, stearic acid, sodium stearyl fumarate or sodium benzoate.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 19, wherein said rotating element is a blade or screw.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 19, wherein said mixer is a high-shear mixer.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 27, wherein said lubricant is magnesium stearate.

Claim 34 (canceled).

Claim 35 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 30, wherein said lubricant is magnesium stearate.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 29, wherein said active ingredient is an anticholinergic selected from the group consisting of ipratropium bromide and oxytropium bromide.

Claim 37 (new): A process for the preparation of a dry powder formulation for the pulmonary administration of a micronized drug by means of a dry powder inhaler, said process comprising mixing coarse carrier particles having a starting diameter which lies between 20 and 1000 μm with fine carrier particles having a diameter of less than 10 μm , wherein said mixing step is carried out in a mixer with a stationary or rotating body equipped with a rotating element or in a high energy mixer.

Claim 38 (new): The process according to claim 37, wherein said fine carrier particles are produced in situ.